

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 15 April 2014

GEC (2014) RAP 1

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)

5th meeting

2-4 April 2014

Report

I. Opening of the meeting and Adoption of the agenda

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

The Agenda was adopted by the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) as set out in Appendix I to this report. The list of participants is attached to this report at Appendix II.

II. Exchange with Ms Snezana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy

In her exchange with the members of the GEC, Ms Snezana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, stressed that the internal reorganisation of the Council of Europe involving the transfer of the Equality and Human Dignity Department from the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law to the Directorate General of Democracy did not imply any diminishment of the human rights agenda of the Organisation's gender equality policy. The Director General stressed the increased opportunities for interaction with other sectors of the Directorate General, such as education, youth, minorities and anti-discrimination. She commended the achievements of the GEC, and those of the former Steering Committee on Gender Equality (CDEG), which included the drafting of two Council of Europe Conventions: on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. The Director General pointed out that one of the main challenges in achieving gender equality lay in achieving gender mainstreaming and that it was included the Gender Equality Strategy for the Council of Europe. She reiterated the importance of the work of the Commission and that the members could count on her full support. The full text of the Director General's intervention can be found at Appendix III to this report.

III. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

1. New European Committee on Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS)

Exchange of views with Ms Michèle Akip, Secretary to the CDDECS

An exchange of views was held with Ms Michèle Akip, the Secretary to the new Steering Committee on Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS). Ms Akip explained the background to the creation of the CDDECS and informed members of the calendar of meetings. Ms Akip informed the members that the letter regarding nomination of CDDECS members will be sent to Permanent Representatives shortly and will explain that the Committee is new and will deal with new topics and which would need to be composed of members who have a broad knowledge of the scope of the issues. GEC members said that some of the subjects of the CDDECS mandate did not fall under one ministry. They asked to be kept informed about the convocation letter so that they could follow up with their national authorities.

Ms Akip also informed the members about the procedure for the nomination of the members of DECS-GEC. At its first meeting in June 2014, the composition of the DECS-GEC would be on the agenda as well as the issue of only 16 members of the GEC having their travel and subsistence costs borne by the Council of Europe.

Ms Akip informed GEC members that the calendar of meetings of the GEC and CDDECS could be envisaged to allow for the overlap of both Committees during one day so that members of the GEC can exchange views with the CDDECS on issues of particular interest.

Following the exchange of views with Ms Akip, the GEC had a discussion and prepared a contribution for the attention of the CDDECS when it discusses and decides the method for the designation of the members of the DECS-GEC whose costs are to be borne by the Council of Europe.

- *The GEC instructed the Secretariat to inform them when the CDDECS convocation letter is sent out to Permanent Representatives so that they can follow up with their national authorities.*
- *The GEC agreed to forward a contribution to the CDDECS for consideration during their discussion about the designation of the 16 representatives of member states in the DECS-GEC whose costs are to be borne by the Council of Europe.*

2. Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017

a. Combating Gender Stereotypes and Sexism

- Follow-up to the Amsterdam Conference on “Media and the image of women” (July 2013)

Compilation of contributions from member states on key challenge and good practices on gender equality and the media at national level

Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele informed the GEC about the ongoing work in relation to the follow-up to the Amsterdam Conference on “Media and the Image of Women” which took place in July 2013. She also informed the members about the preparation of a toolkit/handbook on the implementation of the recommendations in the Amsterdam Report and the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on Gender and Media. The toolkit will be prepared in co-operation with colleagues from the Media Division of the Secretariat.

The compilation of good practices on media issues relating to Gender Equality would be finalised shortly. All those members who have not already sent in contributions still had an opportunity to do so prior to the compilation’s publication.

In the discussion which followed, the GEC members welcomed the handbook/toolkit and exchanged information about media-related events which have taken/are taking place in their countries. Some member states have had the Report of the media conference translated into national languages, as well as the Recommendation on Gender Equality and Media.

Following discussion, the GEC agreed:

- to send any outstanding contributions on good practices to the secretariat by **15 April 2014**;
 - to include a reference to the work of EIGE in respect to good practices in the publication and that EIGE would refer to the Council of Europe work in this area in their publications;
 - to send any translations of the Amsterdam Report and/or the Recommendation on Gender Equality and Media to the Equality Secretariat for publication on the relevant Council of Europe websites.
- 2nd Conference of the Network of NFPs - Combating stereotypes in and through education (Helsinki, 9-10 October 2014)

Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele updated the GEC about the preparation of the 2nd NFP Conference. She also mentioned the close collaboration with colleagues from the education and children's sectors of the Council of Europe. The draft programme was discussed and members made proposals as to keynote speakers and subjects of various sessions. The representative from the Congress pointed out that in many member states, education was managed by regional and/or local authorities rather than at national level, and it might be an interesting area to investigate for good practices. Several member states believed that the role of teachers should be included as a topic.

Following the discussion, the GEC agreed that:

- the Secretariat will revise the draft programme following the proposals from the GEC and send it out to members by **15 April 2014**;
- the members would send their proposals for keynote speakers, and for which sessions they are proposed, attaching a copy of the expert's CV by **23 April 2014**;
- they would send any outstanding contributions for the compilation of good practices on education in the member states by **16 May 2014**.

b. Preventing and combating violence against women

- Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states

The Chairperson thanked all the members who had contributed to the Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states, as well as those who had provided comments and proposals following the last discussion on the study at the GEC meeting in November 2013. The study was launched at a high level Committee of Ministers' Thematic Debate on Violence against Women which took place on 19 March in Strasbourg. All Permanent Representatives who intervened at the Debate acknowledged the importance and value of the measures undertaken by the Council of Europe to support member states in their efforts to prevent and combat violence against women.

- Signature, ratification and entry into force of the Istanbul Convention

Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele informed the members about the situation regarding the ratification and signature of the Istanbul Convention. While there are only eight countries that have ratified the Convention, there are some countries that are very close to depositing the instrument of ratification. She urged those member states that were experiencing difficulties with the process because of the interpretation of some of the Convention articles to contact the Secretariat who is ready to assist them bilaterally or by organising small events where member states may discuss the problems with countries having similar difficulties.

- Commission for the Status of Women (CSW58)

The Chairperson informed the GEC members about the two side events which were co-organised by the Council of Europe at the 58th session of the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW58) in New York on 10 March. One event focused on “The Convention of Belém do Pará and the Istanbul Convention: A response to violence against women worldwide”, which was organised in partnership with the Organization of American States and the Permanent Missions of France and Argentina to the United Nations, and the second was on “Trafficking in human beings – a severe form of violence against women and girls and a flagrant violation of human rights: the Council of Europe response”, organised in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations.

She also drew attention to the advance agreed conclusions from the CSW58 which includes similar language to that used in the work of the Gender Equality Commission and in the text of the Gender Equality Strategy such as “access to justice”, “elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls”, “data collection, dissemination and use of gender statistics”, “participation of women...”, etc.

Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele gave more details about the two side events which had been very well attended. In the discussion which followed, the representative from Poland informed the members about the side event “Combating violence against women - regional perspective” organised by the Government of Poland with the participation of the Permanent Missions of Japan and the United Kingdom in New York and UN Women, and the representative from the International Alliance of Women informed about their side events including on “Gender Based Violence as a Political Weapon” and “The financial crisis, recession and women” . Some members of the GEC who were present at the CSW58 in New York and who were involved in the preparation of the agreed conclusions spoke about the difficult negotiations, particularly about the terminology used and the risk of losing previously agreed language. It was noted that those GEC members who are involved with the negotiations have a role to play and need to work with colleagues based at the United Nations country missions in New York.

- Activities covered by the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement (Norway Grants)

Taina Riski of the Secretariat explained to the members how the European Economic Area (Norway Grants) operated and outlined the projects in which the Council of Europe was involved – notably projects on Violence against Women and Human Trafficking in Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. She mentioned that the projects were now moving towards the implementation stage and the Secretariat may seek advice and information from the GEC members regarding experts and proposals for study visits.

- *The GEC instructed the Secretariat to make available information about the EEA (Norway Grants) on their websites.*
- *The GEC agreed to provide information to the Secretariat on future activities and good practices in their countries relevant to the work and activities undertaken by the Council of Europe in the framework of the EEA/Norway Grants.*

c. Guaranteeing Equal Access of Women to Justice

- Hearing on “Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence”
(Paris, 9 December 2013)

Compilation of key challenges and good practices on access to justice for women victims of violence at the national level

- Seminar on “Tackling the gaps in research and the lack of data disaggregated by sex concerning women’s equal access to justice”
(Paris, 26-27 June 2014)

The Chairperson introduced the item on Guaranteeing Equal Access of Women to Justice by recalling the Hearing, organised in partnership with the Ministry of Women's Rights of France, which took place in Paris in December 2013 and the resulting conclusions. Carolina Lasén Diaz informed the members about the follow-up to the Hearing and the compilation of good practices on access to justice for women victims of violence. The representative from Germany felt that the most important conclusions to have come out of the Hearing was about signing, ratifying and implementing the Istanbul Convention as every speaker had referred to it.

Carolina Lasén Diaz then informed the members about the second event in the Access to Justice series which was a Seminar which will take place in Paris on 26-27 June. She explained that the Seminar will be a working meeting with relevant international and regional organisations, national authorities and civil society on the subject of “Tackling the gaps in research and the lack of data disaggregated by sex concerning women’s equal access to justice”. She informed the members about the participants who had confirmed their attendance such as the Gender Equality Rapporteur from the European Committee for the Efficiency on Justice (CEPEJ), as well as the request for statistical information from the European Court of Human Rights which she hopes would be available for the Seminar.

During the discussions, the members said that the draft concept note should be modified to reflect the importance of the harmonisation of data and the broader scope of the seminar which will cover the whole justice sector and not just violence against women.

Following the discussions, the GEC:

- *agreed to transmit to the Secretariat any outstanding contributions concerning access to justice for women victims of violence at the national level for inclusion in the compilation;*
- *asked the secretariat to revise the draft Concept Paper and draft Programme to integrate the comments by members;*
- *encouraged members to participate in this event.*

d. Balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making

Third round of monitoring the implementation of Committee of Ministers Recommendation Rec(2003)3 on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making

The Chairperson opened the discussion about the third round of monitoring the implementation of the Recommendation on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making and pointed out that achieving this balance is one of the objectives of the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Strategy, which also refers to the need to monitor progress on women's participation in decision-making, and ensuring the visibility of data and good practices in member states. The comparative study published in 2010 recommended that the third round of monitoring should encompass both quantitative progress and qualitative developments.

Carolina Lasén Diaz informed the GEC that one of the main objectives in the Recommendation was to ensure that the representative of either sex does not fall below 40%. A lot of work had been done by the EU in this field and it would be useful to take it into account. It might also be useful to revise or add some questions to the questionnaire while bearing in mind that it cannot move too far from the original questionnaire in order for a comparative study to be carried out.

The discussions that ensued focused on the revision of the questionnaire, in particular regarding inclusion of quantitative questions, the time frame, cooperation with other regional organisations in particular the EU, the possibility to take into account information and data collected by the European Commission and ongoing work at EIGE.

Following the discussions, the GEC agreed:

- *to instruct the Secretariat to revise the previous questionnaire in line with the discussions during the GEC meeting and consider a sufficient timeframe for completion of the questionnaire;*
- *to transmit the proposed questionnaire to the National Focal Points prior to their meeting in October and to place it on the agenda of that meeting;*
- *to transmit the proposed questionnaire to the members of the GEC prior to the next meeting in November and to place it on the agenda of that meeting for adoption.*

e. Gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures

- Exchange of views with Ms Isabel Castro, Deputy Executive Director of the Secretariat of EURIMAGES – the European Cinema Support Fund

The Chair introduced Ms Isabel Castro, Deputy Executive Director of the Secretariat of Eurimages and informed the members that Ms Castro was also the Secretary of the Reflection Group on Gender Equality issues within Eurimages. She spoke about the data which they had already collected and how the statistics show the disparity between men and women at the different levels within the film industry such as how many women directors are nominated for prizes, how many women directors actually win prizes, how many films directed by women are shown at film festivals, etc. Ms Castro explained that although Eurimages is studying the gender question within the film industry, it is not yet a policy of Eurimages so it is not an obligation on the part of applicants that they deal with the gender equality dimension in their submissions. A decision on the possible introduction of gender equality considerations in the funding policy of Eurimages will be taken in 2015.

The GEC members found the presentation very interesting and expressed their wish to translate the power point presentation and disseminate it among relevant colleagues in their member states. They also wished to know where they could find the information. Ms Castro said that while there is no information on this issue on the Eurimages website, as, other web sites such as the French CNC (National Centre of Cinematography) offer more details and statistics about gender in the film industry. The study from which much of Ms Castro's information had come would be published during the Cannes Film Festival in May this year.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Castro for the very interesting exchange and hoped that she would be willing to report back to the GEC next year if a decision is taken to introduce a gender equality policy in Eurimages, as well as to co-operate with the GEC on any future event that might be organised as a follow-up to the Media and the Image of Women Conference.

- Presentation by Mr Francois Tricarico, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

The Chairperson introduced Mr Francois Tricarico, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS). Mr Tricarico informed the members about the current situation regarding the Recommendation to member states on gender mainstreaming in sport and the proposed timetable for its adoption by the Ministers' Deputies. Ms Isabel Romao, the GEC representative from Portugal, who was the expert who worked on the drafting of the Recommendation, thanked those members who had contributed to the drafting of the Recommendation. During the discussion which followed, several members expressed a wish to make a few additional changes to the text. Mr Tricarico also informed the members about the toolkit/CD-ROM which EPAS would like to develop and for whom they would need an expert to work on.

- *The GEC asked the Secretariat to forward immediately the following changes to the text of EPAS(2013)36rev6 to the EPAS Secretariat:*
 - *to replace "vulnerable" with "disadvantaged";*
 - *to amend paragraph 13 to read "Adopt a gender sensitive and inclusive approach in planning physical education and sports curricula and teaching methods and practices, and ensure the autonomy of girls and boys and women and men in this regard.";*
 - *to insert new text after paragraph 26:*
"Corporate social responsibility
Encourage sports organisations to choose sponsors and develop co-operation with organisations and firms that have incorporated gender equality as a dimension of their corporate social responsibility".
- *The GEC agreed to reflect on the request from EPAS to propose an expert for the development of a toolkit or a CD ROM regarding the recommendation on gender mainstreaming in sport.*

f. Meetings of the Network of National Focal Points (NFPs)

The GEC members were asked to review the proposed draft agenda of the meeting of the Network of National Focal Points which will take place on 10 October in Helsinki, following the Education Conference.

- *Following discussions under other items, the GEC agreed to add to the draft agenda items on the revised questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of CM Rec(2003)3 on balanced participation and a discussion on plans to mark the Beijing +20 anniversary.*
- *The GEC instructed the Secretariat to forward the draft agenda to the NFPs prior to the meeting and ask for their proposals and approval.*

IV. Co-operation with other regional and international organisations

Exchange of views with Ms Virginija Langbakk, Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

The Chairperson introduced Ms Virginija Langbakk, the Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). Ms Langbakk gave an overview of the activities and on-going work at the EIGE. She informed the GEC about the studies which EIGE has been conducting on gender-based violence and their work on data collection. In her presentation, which is available on the Gender Equality website, Ms Langbakk highlighted EIGE's activities in the last four years, including on gender mainstreaming, support to the Presidencies of the EU Council, and projects with pre-accession countries. She expressed her wish to further enhance the co-operation between EIGE and the Council of Europe and proposed ways in which this co-operation could be furthered, including advance access to new publications, involving the Council of Europe in their ongoing work on a thesaurus on gender equality, sharing good practices and statistical information, among others.

Presentation by Mr Sami Nevala, Head of Statistics and Surveys, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, on the FRA survey on violence against women

Mr Sami Nevala who is Head of Statistics and Surveys of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) presented the results of the FRA EU-wide survey on violence against women which was launched in Brussels on 5 March. One of the key recommendations from the FRA survey is the signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention, as well as for the EU to explore the possibility of accession to the Convention. It also indicates how the results of the survey can support EU member states in ratifying the Istanbul Convention. The presentation of Mr Nevala is available on the Gender Equality website and paper copies of the Survey are available free of charge via the FRA website.

In the exchange which followed, members highlighted the importance of the survey, and expressed their views how different situations and cultures may influence the interpretation of survey's figures and outcomes. Mr Nevala explained that while no survey is perfect, efforts had been made to ask very specific questions and involve professionals to conduct the survey. He also pointed out that irrelevant of whether the rates are higher or lower in a given country, it is a fact that millions of women experience violence and the results of the survey should be used to step up prevention and protection efforts, including by ratifying the Istanbul Convention.

In summing up, the Chairperson said that the FRA's report could now be used by the GEC members to debate the issue with colleagues in the relevant ministries to address the problems and fill the gaps highlighted by both the FRA Survey and the findings of the Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states.

V. Report of events attended by GEC members, National Focal Points, Experts and the Secretariat

Document GEC(2014)1 contains the reports from the various events and can be consulted on the Gender Equality website.

VI. Current and future activities

- *At national level*
- *At international level*

The Chairperson asked the members to present any activities which they thought might be interesting to the other members. Interventions were made by Germany (new draft legislation discussed regarding gender quota for company boards of the biggest listed companies and the gender pay gap), Ireland (ongoing discussions about including gender equality as a principle in the Constitution as well as gender neutral language), Portugal (launch of National Plan on Gender Equality 2014-2017, the National Plan to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence and the 3rd Plan to prevent and combat female genital mutilation in partnership with the Science and Technology Foundation to fund research on gender equality) and Switzerland (working on 4th and 5th CEDAW reports and Beijing +20 evaluation, referendum on gender quotas in public companies passed in the Basel canton on 9 February 2014, with 57% in favour of quotas).

VII. Other business

Evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming

The Chair introduced Ms Aygen Becquart from the Directorate of Internal Oversight (DIO). Ms Becquart explained to the members that the DIO were embarking on an evaluation of gender mainstreaming in technical assistance programmes of the Council of Europe. This evaluation is part of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy. They are working with the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes and have set up a working group of which Carolina Lasén Diaz is a member. DIO are hoping to establish a baseline for assessing gender mainstreaming in technical assistance projects and plan to come back to the issue at the end of the Gender Equality Strategy, to evaluate progress. The Chairperson wished Ms Becquart well in the work and offered the assistance and support of the GEC members in this evaluation work.

- *The GEC agreed to invite a representative from the Directorate of Internal Oversight to come to the next GEC meeting in November 2014 to present progress and findings.*

Equality Glossary

The Chairperson opened the discussion on this item by pointing out that the GEC had already expressed the importance of a gender equality glossary based on the definitions and terms of Council of Europe instruments and standards, which would be suitable for all 47 member states of the Council of Europe. The members who intervened in the discussion welcomed the initiative. It was agreed that instead of having one glossary which would group together gender equality and LGBT issues, that there would be two separate ones since LGBT issues do not come under the remit of the GEC.

Following discussions, the GEC:

- *instructed the Secretariat to prepare an information paper outlining the background relating to the gender equality glossary request, listing existing and known glossaries available and identifying gaps and needs which may require further work including draft preliminary terms of reference on the objectives and expected results;*
- *agreed to discuss the issue again at their November 2014 meeting.*

Beijing +20 anniversary

Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele informed the members that while Beijing +20 was still some time away, it would be important to start thinking now about the subject of an event that they might wish to organise to mark the occasion. Some suggestions made by the GEC members included gender mainstreaming and support to women in the southern Mediterranean countries. It was suggested that the National Focal Points should be asked for their proposals as well.

The GEC agreed:

- *to place this item on the agenda of the next National Focal Points meeting (October 2014);*
- *to come back to this item at their November 2014 meeting.*

VIII. Date and place of next meetings:

GEC meetings

- *6th meeting: Strasbourg, 19-21 November 2014*

Calendar of forthcoming events and meetings:

- *Seminar on "Tackling the gaps in research and the lack of data disaggregated by sex concerning women's equal access to justice" (Paris, 26-27 June 2014)*
- *2nd Conference of the Network of NFPs "Combating stereotypes in and through education" (Helsinki, 9-10 October 2014)*

- *The GEC took note of the dates of the next GEC meeting and the events in 2014;*
- *The GEC instructed the Secretariat to propose dates for the GEC meetings in 2015.*

APPENDIX I

Strasbourg, 4 April 2014

GEC (2014) OJ 1 rev2

**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
(GEC)**

5th meeting

9.00 am – 6.00 pm, 2-4 April 2014
Strasbourg, Agora, Meeting Room G05

AGENDA

I. Opening of the meeting and Adoption of the agenda

- *Draft Agenda*

GEC(2014)OJ 1 rev2

II. Exchange with Ms Snezana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy

III. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

1. New European Committee on Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS)

Exchange of views with Ms Michèle Akip, Secretary to the CDDECS

2. Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017

a. Combating Gender Stereotypes and Sexism

- Follow-up to the Amsterdam Conference on “Media and the image of women” (July 2013) *Oral Presentation*

Compilation of contributions from member states on key challenge and good practices on gender equality and the media at national level *GEC(2014)8*

- 2nd Conference of the Network of NFPs - Combating stereotypes in and through education

- *Concept Paper* *GEC(2013)8 rev 1*
- *Draft Programme* *GEC(2013)9 rev 1*

b. Preventing and combating violence against women

- Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states
GEC(2013)10 rev 1
- Signature, ratification and entry into force of the Istanbul Convention
Oral Presentation
- Commission for the Status of Women (CSW58)
Oral Presentation
- Activities covered by the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement (Norway Grants) *Oral Presentation*

c. Guaranteeing Equal Access of Women to Justice

- Hearing on “Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence” (Paris, 9 December 2013)
Conclusions
- Compilation of key challenges and good practices on access to justice for women victims of violence at the national level
GEC(2013)12 rev
- Seminar on “Tackling the gaps in research and the lack of data disaggregated by sex concerning women’s equal access to justice” (Paris, 26-27 June 2014)
 - o *Draft Programme* *GEC(2014)2*
 - o *Draft Concept Paper* *GEC(2014)3*

d. Balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making

- Third round of monitoring the implementation of CM Recommendation Rec(2003)3 on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision making
- o *2008 Questionnaire for review* *GEC(2014)5*
 - o *Comparative study on the results of the first and second rounds of monitoring of Council of Europe Recommendation Rec (2003)3 on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making* *CDEG(2009)17*

e. Gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures

- Exchange of views with Ms Isabel Castro, Deputy Executive Director of EURIMAGES – the European Cinema Support Fund

- Presentation by Mr Francois Tricarico, Deputy Executive Secretary of EPAS
 - o *Draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on gender mainstreaming in sport* EPAS(2013)36 rev6

f. Meetings of the Network of National Focal Points (NFPs)

2nd NFP meeting

- o *Draft Programme* GEC(2014)4

IV. Co-operation with other regional and international organisations

Exchange of views with Ms Virginija Langbakk, Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

Presentation by Mr Sami Nevala, Head of Statistics and Surveys, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, of the FRA EU-wide survey on gender-based violence against women

V. Report of events attended by GEC members, National Focal Points and the Secretariat

GEC(2014)1

VI. Current and future activities

- *At national level*
- *At international level*

VII. Other business

VIII. Date and place of next meetings:

GEC meetings

- *6th meeting: Strasbourg, 19-21 November 2014*

Calendar of forthcoming events and meetings:

- *Seminar on "Tackling the gaps in research and the lack of data disaggregated by sex concerning women's equal access to justice" (Paris, 26-27 June 2014)*
- *2nd Conference of the Network of NFPs "Combating stereotypes in and through education" (Helsinki, 9-10 October 2014)*

APPENDIX II

PARTICIPANTS LIST/LISTE DES PARTICIPANT-E-S

Representatives / Représentant(e)s

Armenia / Arménie

Ms Karine SOUDJIAN*
Head of the Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia
2 Government Building
Yerevan 0010
Tel: + 37460 620 504
Mobile: + 05 53 99 511
E-mail: k.soudjian@mfa.am

Austria / Autriche

Ms Eva FEHRINGER*
Deputy Director of European and International Social Policy, Equality and Labour Law
Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
Stubenring
1010 Wien
Tel: +43 17 1100 6098
E-mail: eva.fehringner@bmask.gv.at

Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan

Mr Elgun SAFAROV
Deputy Head
Legal Department
State Committee for Family, Woman and Child Issues
House of Government
U. Hajibeyov 40
Baku AZ 1000
Tel: +994124937039
E-mail: elgunsafarov@yahoo.com

Czech Republic / République tchèque

Mr Radan ŠAFARÍK*
Gender Equality Unit
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Na Poricním Pravu 1
Prague 2
Tel: +420 221 923 486
E-mail: radan.safarik@mpsv.cz

* Elected by CDDH, costs covered by Council of Europe / Elu-e-s par le CDDH, frais prise en charge par le Conseil de l'Europe

Estonia / Estonie

Ms Käthlin SANDER
Head of Gender Equality Policy
Gender Equality Department
Ministry of Social Affairs
Gonsiori 29
15027 Tallinn
Tel: +372 626 9252
Fax: +372 699 2209
E-mail: kathlin.sander@sm.ee

Finland / Finlande

Ms Päivi YLI-PIETILA*
Ministerial Adviser
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
PO BOX 33, 00023 Government
Helsinki
Tel: +358 29 51 63 228 / 358 50 46 49 323
E-mail: paivi.yli-pietila@stm.fi

France

Mme Sophie DEL-CORSO*
Chargée de mission
Bureau des Affaires européennes et internationales (BEI)
Ministère des Affaires sociales
14, avenue Duquesne
75350 PARIS 07 SP
Tél : +01 53 86 10 61
E-mail: sophie.del-corso@social.gouv.fr

Germany / Allemagne

Ms Antje WUNDERLICH
Division 405 - European and international gender equality policy
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs
Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Greece / Grèce

Ms Ifigenia KATSARIDOU [Apologised/Excusée]
Senior Official, General Secretariat for Gender Equality
Ministry of the Interior
10559 Dragatsaniou 8
Athens
Tel: +30 2131511 115
E-mail: ikatsaridou@isotita.gr; ifikatsa@otenet.gr

Ireland / Irlande

Ms Pauline MOREAU*
Director
Gender Equality Division
Department of Justice and Equality
Bishops Square
Redmond's Hill
Dublin 2
Tel: +353 1 4790 235
E-mail: pmmoreau@justice.ie

Mr Martin SWITZER
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe
11, boulevard du Président Edwards
67000 Strasbourg
Tel: +33 (0) 88 14 49 26
E-mail: martin.switzer@dfa.ie

Italy / Italie

Mr Michele PALMA* [Apologised/Excusée]
Gender Director of International and Communitarian Affairs Office
Department for Equal Opportunities
Presidency of Council
Largo Chigi 19
00187 Rome
Tel: +39 (06) 6779 24 52
E-mail: m.palma@governo.it

Lithuania / Lituanie

Ms Vanda JURSENIENE*
Head of the Equality between Women and Men Division
Ministry of Social Security and Labour
Vivulskio str. 11
03610 Vilnius
Tel: +370 5 2664 273
E-mail: vanda.jurseniene@socmin.lt

Netherlands / Pays-Bas

Ms Carlien SCHEELE*
Chairperson of the GEC/Présidente de la GEC
Director for Gender and LGBT Equality
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
IPC 5500
P.O. Box 16375
2500 BJ The Hague
Tel: +31 70 41 23 351/+31 65 23 67 792
E-mail: c.scheele@minocw.nl

Poland / Pologne

Ms Monika KSIENIEWICZ*
Deputy Director
Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment
The Chancellery of the Prime Minister
Al. Ujazdowskie 1/3
00-583 Warsaw
Tel: +48 22 694 7535
E-mail: monika.ksieniewicz@kprm.gov.pl

Portugal

Mme Isabel ROMAO*
Independent gender equality expert
Rua Pinheiro Borges, 3
2º Dº. Alfragide
2610-139 Amadora
Tel: +351 21 47 13 902
E-mail: isabelromao2@gmail.com

Russian Federation / Fédération de Russie

Ms Maria ORESHINA
Expert
Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Slovak Republic / République slovaque

Ms Lubica ERDELSKA
Permanent Representation of Slovak Republic to the Council of Europe
1, rue Ehrmann
67000 Strasbourg
Tel: +33 (0) 3 88 36 57 17
E-mail: Lubica.Erdelska@mzv.sk

Slovenia / Slovénie

Ms Violeta NEUBAUER*
Independent gender equality expert
Dalmatinova ulica 10
1000 Ljubljana
Tel: + 386 1 232 55 24
Mobile: + 386 31 612 434
E-mail: violeta.neubauer@gmail.com

Spain / Espagne

Ms Ana ARRILLAGA ALDAMA
Deputy General Direction for International Relations
Ministry of Health, Social services and Equality
Pº Prado 18-20
28071 MADRID
Tel: +91 5961168
E-mail: anaarrillaga@migualdad.es

Sweden

Ms Sara FINNIGAN

Deputy to the Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe

67, allée de la Robertsau

67000 Strasbourg

Tel: +33-3-88 24 60 50, +33-3-88 24 60 56

E-mail: sara.finnigan@gov.se

Ms Malin ERIKSSON

Trainee/Stagiaire

Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe

67, allée de la Robertsau

67000 Strasbourg

Switzerland / Suisse

Mme Sylvie DURRER*

Directrice Doctorat ès lettres

Bureau fédéral de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes BFEG

Département fédéral de l'intérieur

Schwarztor 51

3003 Berne

E-mail: sylvie.durrer@ebg.admin.ch

Turkey/Turquie

Ms Goknur AKCADAG

Head of Department

Ministry of Family and Social Policies of the Republic of Turkey

Tel: +90 312 705 90 02

Fax: 0090 312 705 9196

E-mail: goknur.akcadag@aile.gov.tr

Ms Meltem AKSEN

Legal Expert

Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe

23 Bld de l'Orangerie

67000 Strasbourg

Tel: +33 (0) 3 24 85 71

E-mail: meltem.aksen@mfa.gov.tr

Ukraine

Mr Sergiy KYSLYTSYA*

Vice Chair of the GEC/Vice-président du GEC

Vice Minister

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mykhaylivska sqr. 1

01018 Kiev

Tel: +380 44 238 15 64

E-mail: s.kyslytsya@mfa.gov.ua kyslytsya@yahoo.com

Participants/Participant-e-s**ORGANS AND COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ORGANES ET COMITES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE****Conference of International Non-governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe /
Conférence des Organisations internationales non-gouvernementales du Conseil de l'Europe**

Ms Betty DOORNENBAL

Gender Equality Co-ordinator Standing Committee

Tel: +310620117999

Email: bettydoornenbal@gmail.com

Ms Anje WIERSINGA

IAW Representative at Council of Europe

Vrouwenbelangen Representative at UN

PO Box 614

3700AP Zeist

The Netherlands

Tel: (+) 31 30 69 58 078

E-mail: anjew@hetnet.nl

OBSERVER STATES/ÉTATS OBSERVATEURS**Holy See/Saint Siège**

Ms Catherine VIERLING

E-mail: cvierling@yahoo.fr

Mexico / Mexique

Mme Mabel MALDONADO

Attachée

Mission Permanente du Mexique auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

8, Bld du Président Edwards,

67000 Strasbourg

Tel : +33 (0) 3 88 24 26 81

E-mail: repmexcoe@sre.gob.mx

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS / ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES**European Union/Union Européenne**

Mr Giovanni Carlo BRUNO

Deputy to the Head of Delegation

Delegation to the Council of Europe

18, Bld de l'Orangerie

F-67000 Strasbourg

Tel: +33 (03) 90 40 60 80 (Secretariat)

E-mail: giovanni-carlo.bruno@eeas.europa.eu

European Institute for Gender Equality / Institut européen pour l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes (EIGE)

Ms Virginija LANGBAKK
Director/Directrice
Gedimino prospektas 16
01103, Vilnius
Lithuania

Ms Vera FONSECA
Stakeholders and Networking Officer
Gedimino prospektas 16
01103, Vilnius
Lithuania
Tel: +370 5 2157447
Email: vera.fonseca@eige.europa.eu

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Mr Sami NEVALA
Head of Sector Statistics and Surveys
Freedoms and Justice Department
Schwarzenbergplatz 11
1040 Vienna
Austria
Tel: +43 1 58030 676
Email: Sami.NEVALA@fra.europa.eu

Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération en Europe / Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Mr Marko LEHTO
Adviser on Gender Issues
Gender Section - OSCE
Wallnerstrasse 6
1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43 1 514 36/6935
E-mail: Marko.Lehto@osce.org

SECRETARIAT/SECRETARIAT

CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES/CONGRÈS DES POUVOIRS LOCAUX ET RÉGIONAUX

Mr Denis HUBER
Executive Secretary / Secrétaire exécutif
Chamber of Regions / Chambre des regions
Tel: +33 (0) 3 88 41 20 64
E-mail: denis.huber@coe.int

Ms Marie-Aude YESOU

Deputy Head of Department / Chef adjoint du Service

Co-operation, Administration, External Relations / Coopération, Administration et Relations extérieures

Tel: +33 (0) 3 3 88 41 22 60

E-mail: marie-aude.yesou@coe.int

Ms Nathalie BARGUES

Trainee / Stagiaire

Tel: +33 (0) 3 90 5695

E-mail: nathalie.bargues@coe.int

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF DEMOCRACY / DIRECTION GENERALE DE LA DEMOCRATIE (DGII)

Ms Snezana SAMARDZIC-MARKOVIC

Director General / Directrice Générale

Ms Marja RUOTANEN

Director of Justice and Human Dignity / Directrice de la justice et de la dignité humaine

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 30 45

E-mail: marja.ruotanen@coe.int

Ms Michèle AKIP

Secretary / Secrétaire

European Committee for Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality / Comité européen pour la cohésion sociale, la dignité humaine et l'égalité (CDDECS)

Tel: +33 (0) 3 88 41 23 46

E-mail: michele.akip@coe.int

Ms Isabel CASTRO-MARTINEZ

Deputy Executive Director / Directeur exécutif adjoint

Eurimages Partial Agreement / Accord Partiel

Tel: +33 (0) 3 88 41 22 81

E-mail: isabel.castro@coe.int

Ms Regina JENSDOTTIR

Head of Division and Programme co-ordinator / Chef de Division et Coordinatrice du Programme

Children's Rights / Droits des enfants

Tel: +33 (0) 3 88 41 22 25

E-mail: regina.jensdottir@coe.int

Mr Christopher REYNOLDS

Education Policy

Tel: 33 (0) 88 41 46 86

E-mail: christopher.reynolds@coe.int

Mr François TRICARICO

Deputy Secretary / Secrétaire Adjoint

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) / Accord Partiel élargi sur le sport (APES)

Tel: +33 (0) 3 90 21 43 94

E-mail: francois.tricarico@coe.int

Ms Liri KOPAÇI-DI MICHELE
Head of Equality Division / Chef de la Division Égalité
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 22 58
E-mail: liri.kopaci-dimichele@coe.int

Ms Johanna NELLES
Head of Violence against Women Unit (GREVIO) / Chef d' Unité Violence à l'égard des femmes (GREVIO)
Tel: +33 (0) 3 90 46 78
E-mail: johanna.nelles@coe.int

Ms Carolina LASÉN DIAZ
Programme Officer / Responsable de Programme
Gender Equality / Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes
Tel: +33 (0) 3 90 21 56 79
E-mail: carolina.lasen-diaz@coe.int

Ms Raluca Maria POPA
Equality Division / Division Égalité
Tel: +33 (0) 33 90 21 44 30
E-mail: raluca.popa@coe.int

Ms Taina RISKI
Programme Advisor/Conseillère de programmes (Norway Grants)
Equality Division / Division Égalité
Tel: +33 (0) 3 90 21 4203
E-mail: taina.riski@coe.int

Mrs Adrienne INGLEDOW
Principal Assistant / Assistante principale
Gender Equality / Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 20 63
E-mail: adrienne.ingledow@coe.int

Ms Paula HINCHY
Administrative Assistant / Assistante administrative
Gender Equality / Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 37 36
E-mail: paula.hinchy@coe.int

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW / DIRECTION GENERALE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DE L'ÉTAT DE DROIT (DGI)
MEDIA/MEDIAS

Ms Onur ANDREOTTI
Programme Officer / Responsable de Programme
Tel: +33 3 90 21 4212
E-mail: onur.andreotti@coe.int

DIRECTORATE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT / DIRECTION DE L'AUDIT INTERNE ET DE L'EVALUATION

Ms Aygen BECQUART

Head of Evaluation Division/Chef de l'Evaluation

Tel: +33 (0) 3 88 41 3128

E-mail: aygen.becquart@coe.int

Ms Rica TERBECK

Evaluator/Evaluatrice

Tel: +33 (0) 3 90 21 45 47

E-mail: rica.terbeck@coe.int

Interpreters / Interprètes

Ms Rebecca BOWEN

Ms Lucie DE BURLET

Ms Isabelle MARCHINI

APPENDIX III

**Intervention of
Ms Snezana Samardžić-Marković
Director General of Democracy**

- I am very pleased to have this first exchange of views with the Gender Equality Commission.
- We are honoured and proud to have the Department of Human Dignity and Equality within the Directorate General of Democracy since January 2014. The reorganisation does not imply that we diminish in any way the human rights agenda of our gender equality policy.
- The reorganisation allows us to better interact and make synergies with the other sectors of the DG – for instance the protection of national minorities, education and youth.
- All colleagues look forward to benefit from the experience, know-how, expertise and achievements of the Gender Equality Commission and the staff of the unit.
- The Gender Equality Commission has conducted very important work to support member States in their implementation of the Council of Europe standards on gender equality. You have reasons to be proud of your achievements. You and your colleagues of the former “Steering Committee on Gender Equality” played an important role in the drafting of two European treaties: the “Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings”; and the “Istanbul Convention”.
- Your Commission has to address the important challenge of translating existing norms, standards and texts into practice in, and with, our member states. Norms and standards are necessary but not always sufficient to change realities on the ground. The Council of Europe and our member States often face challenges when translating standards into practice. Effective equality is far from being a reality. Even though progress is visible, gender gaps persist in many areas. And you have risen to the challenge with some very interesting events and activities to this end.
- Only 147 days have passed since the Committee of Ministers adopted the “Transversal Programme on Gender Equality 2014-2017”. However, you have already achieved important results: from addressing the need for a change of culture and perception by overcoming prejudices and sexist stereotypes; to steps to promote the “Istanbul Convention”; and action towards equal access of women to justice.
- One of the main challenges of achieving gender equality lies in achieving gender mainstreaming. This is also an ambitious objective of the Council of Europe Strategy for the next four years. You have an impressive track record in this field:

- o I followed with great interest the Committee of Ministers' debate on your conference on "Media and the Image of Women" (Amsterdam, July 2013). Several speakers highlighted the success of the event, which was partly due to the strong involvement and generosity of the host country, but also due to the choice of a highly relevant topic and the strong concept. There is a lot of interest in the Amsterdam report. The event has inspired similar activities in the member States. The compilation of examples of good practice—which I understand is work in progress—will certainly be useful for member States in their work on stereotyping and the image of women in the media.
- o The programme of the Hearing on "Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence" (Paris, December 2013) was very interesting. The combination of expert speakers and testimonies by victims of violence is powerful. This approach makes it easier to connect law and practice. And again, the collection of examples of good practice is a useful source of information.
- o In recent weeks I have closely followed the work on preventing and combating violence against women, and on the promotion of the "Istanbul Convention". The analytical report on the implementation of the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on the protection of women against violence provides a comprehensive overview of the situation in 46 out of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe. It is a valuable source of information for all those involved in preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The activities in the context of the 58th session of the "Commission on the Status of Women", promoting the "Istanbul Convention" were very successful. The thematic debate on violence against women, which the Committee of Ministers held on 19 March, paved the way towards further steps.
- The list is very impressive. Your work makes a difference. It is not only recognised by the member States, as many of them pointed out during the thematic debate, but also by other regional and international partners.
- The recent launch of the survey on violence against women by the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union was just as much about the importance of the "Istanbul Convention" as the tool to support member States in their efforts to tackle violence against women and domestic violence.
- And as the Deputy Executive Director of "UN Women" and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations pointed out in her speech during the joint event to promote our Anti-Trafficking Convention: side events organised with the Council of Europe have become the side events for "UN Women". This is quite an achievement.
- I welcome the representatives of our regional and partner organisations who join us in our activities in the field of gender equality. Our co-operation is an excellent example of building on the strengths and the added value of each organisation.

- To conclude I will mention two recent decisions of the Committee of Ministers, which are highly relevant for the work of your Commission:

- o Firstly, the adoption by consensus of the first-ever multiannual gender equality strategy in the Council of Europe. It is a balanced, flexible and focused document, which builds on the strengths and the added value of our Organisation. In accordance with the consensus view of member States, the Strategy strongly emphasises existing standards and the need to implement them effectively. The Strategy will guide the activities of the Commission and the Organisation as a whole, in order to narrow the gap between de facto and de jure equality.

- o Secondly, the setting up your new “parent committee”: the “European Committee for Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality”, “CDDECS”. You will be hearing more about this from the Secretary of the Committee later this week. I am sure that the new committee will help us to achieve synergies and interaction between all the various policy fields which relate to human dignity. The new committee will provide you with the support you need to continue your work with the same energy and dedication as before. I invite you all to make the most of this constellation.

- I look forward to working with your Commission. Promoting gender equality through the “Transversal Programme” is such an important part of the Council of Europe mission that we are not allowed to fail. You can count on my full support.